

Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-02

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3020

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS LUANDA 923

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN AO

SUBJ: CIVAIR: CONGO BRAZZAVILLE DELEGATION ARRIVES IN LUANDA

1. AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION FROM THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO ARRIVED IN LUANDA ON OCTOBER 24 TO DISCUSS A CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO THE LUANDA PRESS THE BRAZZAVILLE DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY BOUTI ALEXIS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION, AND WAS MADE UP OF A PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR AN OFFICIAL OF THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT, AND MEMBERS OF THE "CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU."

2. MPLA SUPPORTERS THOUGHT THE PLANE WAS BRINGING AGOSTINHO NETO TO LUANDA AND MOBBED THE AIRPORT. THE CONGOLESE AT FIRST THOUGHT THE DEMONSTRATION WAS FOR THEM AND WERE SURPRISED TO FIND SUCH ARDENT SUPPORT FOR BRAZZAVILLE IN ANGOLA. THE REPEATED SHOUTS OF "AGOSTINHO NETO" SOON SET THEM STRAIGHT, HOWEVER. BOUITI TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT IS TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS LOOKING TOWARD THE RENEWAL OF AIR LINKS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. "I AM THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
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OF MY COUNTRY," HE CONTINUED, "AND I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT AN

MPLA DELEGATION." AFTER HE EXPRESSED HIS ADMIRATION FOR THE MPLA AND ITS LONG STRUGGLE FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA, THE CROWD FINALLY LEFT THE VIP ROOM. TWO MPLA MEMBERS OF THE ANDRADE FACTION GOT OFF THE PLANE, BUT SAID THEY HAD COME IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY.

3. THE ANGOLAN SECRETARY FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION, ANTUNES DA CUNHA, WHO ARRIVED WITH THE GROUP, TOLD THE PRESS THAT AFTER VISITING KINSHASA TO SIGN CIVIL AIR AGREEMENTS HE HAD GONE ON TO BRAZZAVILLE TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF A SIMILAR AGREEMENT. ALEXIS CONFIRMED THAT A CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED TO PERMIT THE CONGO AIRLINES AND TAAG TO SERVICE LUANDA, LANDANA, PONTA NEGRA AND BRAZZAVILLE. HE ADDED THAT A CONGOLESE DELEGATION WILL RETURN TO LUANDA IN ABOUT A WEEK FOR FINAL NEGOTIATIONS AND TO OPEN AN OFFICE.
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